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SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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C/O DAZIMINA HANOI

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editorial

New Political Turmoil in Saigon

A new political turmoil is sweeping Saigon and other South Viet Nam cities. It is the natural resultante of all the tremors which have been rocking urban centres for several months now.

It originated from the Saigon students' movement in March 1970 for the release of their mates held by the puppet authorities. It soon developed into a partial, then general class-boycott with no time limit. It spread from the University and colleges in Saigon to secondary and vocational schools not only in Saigon, but also in the provinces. It is putting forth slogans that faithfully reflect the deep aspirations, not only of students, but also of people of all walks of life: "We are resolutely against repression of students!", "To victimize students is to betray the nation!". The puppet authorities are urged to set free the detained students, and to respect "university autonomy." As the students have come to realize that the common source of all their calamities and those of the entire nation is the war of aggression unleashed by the US imperialists, their struggle has rapidly been spearheaded against the Yankees and their henchmen: "US go home!", "Governor General Bunker, go home!", "Viet Nam is not US 51st state!", "Nixon's Vietnamization means war prolongation!". Other slogans say: "Down with US invasion of Cambodia!", "Down with Lon Nol — Sirik Matak the murderers of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia!" In other watchwords, the students demand the removal of Thieu-Ky-Khiem, regarded by them as "barbarous and inhuman." "Out of touch with the past and the present, having no sense of the future and consequently no raison d'être". They press for the "immediate withdrawal of all GIs to end the dirty war in Viet Nam"; they call on all Vietnamese to "fight shoulder to shoulder" and to do "everything for peace!"

The movement assumes a rich variety of forms, which spells out the creativeness of the militant youths: petitions, statements, rallies and teach-ins, then more aggressive actions, such as sit-ins in front of the "National Assembly," "Education Ministry," "Justice Ministry," "Military Court" of the puppet regime, street marches, motorbike parades through US-puppet cordons, launching of slogan-carrying balloons, occupation of embassies and colleges, burning of effigies, etc... In so doing, the students display their determination to carry out an uncompromising fight against the Thieu-Ky administration and its masters — the American imperialists. Clearly enough, nothing can check their advance. With their deep-seated patriotism, they have foiled all crafty schemes concocted in the US Embassy and Nguyen Van Thieu's "Independence Palace." Their hatred for the oppressors and their militant resolve instil into them strength and imagination and help them overcome all difficulties and give a vigorous impulse to their drive.

"Governor General Bunker go home"
"Viet Nam is not the 51th State of the USA"
are the watchwords of the Saigon Student demonstrators.

A factor contributing to their success is the support and concerted actions of all the other segments of the population in Saigon and other cities.

The Saigon press as a whole voluntarily suspended publication for 3 consecutive days to express its opposition to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem -ordered higher newsprint price and also its sympathy with the fighting students. In spite of all enemy measures to hide the truth, it has ever since been covering with accurate daily accounts the student movement which it defends and encourages while severely scoring and condemning the US imperialists and their agents. On June 3, 1970, for the second time, more than 40 dailies in Saigon did not come out, in support of the students.

100,000 workers went on a sympathetic strike in favour of the Thu Duc depot workers; this marked a new step in the workers' movement and at the same time constituted a meaningful co-ordination with the students' drive.

South Viet Nam Buddhist believers have given further proofs of their patriotism. Seven years ago, Buddhist dignitary Thich Quang Duc committed self-immolation and his example has been followed by more than 30 other Buddhists, the last one being Thich Thien Lai whose self-sacrifice once more cast a blazing light on the Buddhists' attachment to peace. If seven years ago Thich Quang Duc's funeral had shaken the whole Diem regime, the recent obsequies for Thich Thien Lai also provided an opportunity for hundreds of thousands of people to stage a huge demonstration against Thieu-Ky-Khiem and chant anti-US slogans like "US go home!" and "End to the dirty war of aggression against Viet Nam!". History seems to repeat itself, but in fact the Buddhists' traditional militancy and unsubmissiveness has been heightened. The Buddhist movement is closely connected with the students' action: both of them are expressions of the same aspirations which are indeed national in their character. Buddhist and student slogans concur that the US imperialists are one common enemy and Thieu-Ky-Khiem their agents and that the US must quit and Thieu-Ky-Khiem be toppled...

Mention should also be made of the fight put up by war invalids of the Saigon army. Though limited in scope and centered only on demands for better living conditions, their action however constitutes another blast of wind against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate.

PROTECTED as they are by US weapons and soldiers, the puppet rulers are trembling with fear. They have resorted to all means to divide and ruthlessly repress various segments of the people. They have dug trenches and erected barbed wire fences in city streets, encircled schools and pagodas, arrested, put to torture and opened fire on, pupils, students, bonzes, Buddhist believers and war invalids. They have mustered big police forces and army units, used all the war means at their disposal, including hydrochloric acid, to crack down upon militant students and Buddhists.

But the political storm now raging in South Viet Nam cities testifies to their failure. Neither repression nor demagogy can abate it.

As can be seen from the above, in the present movement of city folks, the particular interests of each section of the people are wedded to those of the nation as a whole and are therefore provided with favourable conditions to make steady progress.

The US aggressors and their henchmen's present setbacks are serious and their isolation extreme. They are under heavy fire from all quarters not only in Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, but also in the United States and the world. They have been landed in an unmistakable predicament.

SOUTH VIET NAM

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SLUMP

An Inevitable Sequel of "Vietnamization"

(*continued from last issue*)

TO build up their on-the-spot logistics in furtherance of "Vietnamization", the Thieu - Ky - Khiem clique have been ballyhooing their "Society-building" program, their establishment of a "people's capitalist economy" on the lines of a policy of "self-sufficiency", etc. A noisy propaganda has also been carried out for their "agragrian reform", their development of agriculture, fish-rearing and animal husbandry, their restoration and development of industry, the boost to exportations and limitation of importations, etc.

But since the US-puppets are actuated mainly by the need of exacting greater contributions from the people to step up the war of aggression, their so called measures for consolidation and further expansion of South Viet Nam economy exist only on paper for public consumption. Dozens of industrial blueprints have been prepared but only those which can serve the war of aggression were put into execution-electricity, water, cement, coal, communications and transports, etc... Others are put off *sine die* or shelved as "post war development projects". Shortage of capital, manpower and raw materials and the search for immediate profits which is typical of investors have reduced the already crippled industry of South Viet Nam to a state of slow death. As far as agriculture is concerned, as a result of destruction by US-puppet strafings and bombings and chemical sprayings and their continuous "mop-ups" in the course of which arson and looting are common occurrences, as a result also of their policy of forced concentration of the population and setting up of "white" security belts around their military bases etc..., agricultural manpower gets completely out of control and facilities for agricultural production are gradually destroyed: lands lie fallow, buffaloes and oxen are slaughtered, farm tools are scrapped, crops are trampled flat or burnt down. Hence the visible decline of South Viet Nam agricultural production and the continuous food shortage over the last few years.

This year, to help its "Vietnamization" program, the US has compelled its Saigon stooges to push up the requisition of food and foodstuffs in South Viet Nam. Whereas the need in food of the enemy-controlled areas went up from 850,000 tons of rice in 1969 to over 1 million tons in 1970, the US plan was to allow the puppet regime to import only 150,000 tons, the remaining part was to be collected in the rural areas, mainly the Mekong Delta. But at the end of the first trimester of 1970, they were able to get hold of 17,000 tons only; moreover American aid came drop by drop. Signs of famine appeared in some areas, particularly in Central Viet Nam. Faced with this situation, the Thieu–Ky–Khiem triumvirate had to sign trade agreements with the US, Thailand, Taiwan... for 350,000 tons of rice to be imported in 1970 from these countries. However, the food deficit may still drag on in enemy-controlled territories this year, owing to the serious financial crisis now gripping South Viet Nam and the parcimonious release of US aid. This is a great difficulty confronting the US-puppet economy and an indication of the failure of their "pacification" program, their search for on-the-spot sources of supply and their "Vietnamization" scheme as well.

The main prop for the Saigon regime is the United States. Affluent as it is, the US however is not unlimited in its possibilities. The "limited war" pursued by it in Viet Nam, though not the biggest in all US history, is anyhow second only to World War II in terms of war costs. Figures released by the American rulers themselves show that expenditures directly connected with the Viet Nam war amounted to 150 billion dollars, and if indirect spending is also included, the total would come to 400 billion.

The costs of the war of aggression in Viet Nam have surpassed all politically tolerable limits. There impact has been deeply felt in the whole of US economy and finance. The dollar is finding itself in a tottering position, its 1969 value has dropped by 20 cents compared with 1965 and it may lose another 5 cents in 1970: inflation instead of being checked, reached in 1969 unprecedented proportions. The US international balance of payments is in a constant state of deficit. For the first 9 months of 1969, the deficit was 8 billion dollars – a record figure in US history. US gross national product decreased in two consecutive quarters by 0.4 per cent in the second half of 1969 and by 1.5 per cent in the 1st quarter of 1970. Owing to a fall in production, unemployment has attained the highest peaks in 5 years: 2,800,000 people in Feb. 1970, 3,000,000 in March 1970, or 4.4 per cent of all US labour force.

A big crisis is now looming over the US Stock Exchange and has begun to spread to all capitalist countries. Observers are of the opinion that this is a repetition of the big recession hitting the capitalist world in 1929-33, which had also started with the fall of share prices in New York.

On account of those accumulating difficulties, the Nixon Administration has been forced to take measures considered by itself "politically dangerous" since they clashed with Nixon's own demagogic policy. Contrary to his pledge to the American voters, Nixon had to extend the enforcement of the 10 per cent increase on income-tax. He had also to cut appropriations earmarked for education and social welfare proposed by the Senate, while raising public loans from 377 billion dollars to 395 billion. The financial situation is so critical that Nixon has had to resort to every means to reduce war expenditures. In view of the «Vietnamization» program, these are in fact reduced by 5 billion dollars for fiscal year 1969-70. This small cut however is unable to avert a slump of US economy, a sequel of the Viet Nam war. Its prolongation and expansion to the whole of Indochina may prevent further slashes in war spending and indeed may lead to new increases, which in its turn may give rise to a greater economic recession.

IT is crystal-clear that the «Vietnamization» scheme is the cause of growing economic decline and difficulties in South Viet Nam's enemy-controlled areas and in the United States as well. This represents a most serious trial for many people and lies at the bottom of many headaches of the US-puppet rulers.

Existing divisions are exacerbating within the United States and impelling forward the protest movement of large masses of Americans. Nixon cannot stay quiet in face of such a situation, as clearly indicated by his June 16 speech.

ANH KIET and DINH TRONG

SAIGON LAND REFORM:

AN INSTRUMENT OF US "VIETNAMIZATION"

A few months back Nguyen Van Thieu flew to Can Tho deep into the Mekong delta after signing a decree on the much—advertized land—reform law. The State Department hurriedly sent Saigon a congratulatory message. Apart from this, the 22-article act has had no other repercussions so far.

Over a decade before Thieu, Ngo Dinh Diem had already promulgated a land reform. This move, regarded as a "state policy", did not however survive the regime toppled in late 1963.

As a matter of fact, Diem's land reform did not give patriotic peasants a single square yard of land. They and tenants of reactionary land lords were evicted from the plots of land they had received from the people's power in the resistance war against French aggression. They were accused of illegally appropriating landlords' land, and of failing to pay rent taxes due to absentee landowners (who had fled to the occupied towns and cities). One can thus see that Diem's land reform was merely a measure to nullify the one successfully carried into effect by the revolutionary power in the resistance war years, and to deprive the peasantry of one of their most basic democratic rights.

The Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta's land reform is not less reactionary in character. It is a countermove to the agrarian policy of the South Viet Nam NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN. It is common knowledge that the NFL had distributed more than two million hectares to peasants. Since its formation a year ago, the PRG has given them another 63,000 hectares. This reform is a truly democratic one, whose goal it is to make peasants the real masters of the lands reclaimed by their ancestors, fertilized by their fathers and themselves over the years. This accounts for their attachment to the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government which they regard as their authentic representatives, the champions of their supreme and legitimate interests. This, too, explains why they just pooh-pooh the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique as a gang of traitors, and their land reform as nothing more than a farce.

How can the Saigon administration satisfy the peasants' need for land when the countryside remains in the control of the NFL and PRG?

The crux of the problem, however, is who are the beneficiaries of Thieu's reform? Liberation troops—or their families — who are fighting for the independence and liberty of SVN? Or patriotic peasants victims of US devastating bombings and shellings? Not at all, for these are the sworn enemies of the Saigon ruling trio. How can one possibly conceive that Thieu-Ky-Khiem who, in collusion with their US bosses, have laid waste 1,300,000 hectares of paddies and orchards in the past several years with artillery pounding, napalm, chemical agents and B-52 carpet-bombing, really mean to meet the most eager claim of the peasants? How can one imagine that those who do not shrink from most atrocious methods to submit and pauperize the rural population, will earnestly set about generating a "propertied" peasantry? How can one, in brief, believe that the Saigon administration want to serve their sworn enemies?

Hasn't Thieu himself provided an answer to these questions? His land-reform law makes it clear that recipients of the land distributed are parents of fallen combatants, demobbed or retired militarymen and civil servants, in short, people who owe their subsistence to the services they have rendered to the American aggressors and their lackeys—people whom Thieu wants to make "propertied citizens" are none other than those who are food for powder in the US aggressive war. Clearly, the land reform in question is merely a tool of Washington's aggression in Viet Nam and, at this stage, of its "Vietnamization" program.

Such a policy can only rouse resolute opposition from the peasantry and reap nothing else than setbacks, because it is enforced at a time when the Americans and their puppets find themselves in a fix, because the peasants have already witnessed the land-reform farce of the previous quisling administrations, and more particularly because the agrarian policy of the NFL and the PRG of the RSVN have made their impact felt more strongly than ever.

By the instrumentality of the current land reform, the US aggressors — its actual architects — hope to put on the shaky and fetid puppet regime a semblance of democracy, thus deceiving the peasantry in particular and public opinion in general. Above all, they want to win over the former which make up the bulk of the SVN population, and thereby to build up a solid political rear indispensable to the prosecution of their war and the maintenance of their neo-colonialist domination. Small wonder that their land reform — the carrot — goes hand in hand with their "rural pacification" — the big stick. The "land to the tillers" manœuvre aims on the other hand at snatching manpower and material resources of South Viet Nam from the NFL and the PRG.

Machiavellian as it is, the US-puppets' attempt will sooner or later turn out to be a pipe dream. The castle they are building on the sand with millions of dollars and defending with a brutality unknown in the history of wars, will crumble like any other of the same kind. Indeed, despite American pronouncements to the contrary, the NFL and PRG actually controls four-fifths of the territory and eleven out of fourteen million people in South Viet Nam. So much so that after the enactment of the land-reform law, a question is raised by a cross-section of public opinion : "How much land the Saigon administration still has for distribution?".

VAN PHUONG

Landmark : US-Puppet military bases

"VIETNAMIZATION" OF THE WAR, A PASSIVE MOVE OF US IMPERIALISM

Ed.N. — "Vietnamization" of the war is a hopeless path that will lead the US to more humiliating setbacks and Nixon to his political grave.

The first part of this commentary points out that "Vietnamization" is a change of US strategy after having sustained bitter failures. It has a military, political and economic content, but its main objective is to step up the "pacification" program and strengthen the puppet army.

Following are excerpts of the second and third part of the commentary.

II. — A WICKED POLICY BORN OF FAILURE

1. The wicked, obdurate and brutal character of "Vietnamization" is found most strikingly if the "rural pacification" program considered by the US as the last battle the victor of which will win the war, as AP reported on December 1, 1969.

The main aim of "pacification" is to round up the people, pressgang young men into the puppet army, bolster up the stooge administration and cope with our people's uprising.

To herd people into concentration camps, the US-puppets have poured bombs, shells and toxic chemicals to raze villages, cropfields and orchards of the people. They plunder the people's property, wantonly arrest and massacre civilians, and in some areas even blast the people's bomb-shelters with mines then shell the villages to deprive the people of anti-raids refuges. All their barbarous acts are aimed at driving the people into areas under their control where they are physically and morally swayed by military posts and secret agents, and poisoned by psywar means, depraved American way of live and culture, and tied to the American economy.

In the towns under their tight control, the US aggressors and their flunkeys are well aware that they are hated by the people and even by many of their own officers and personnel. They are beefing up their police and security forces especially in Saigon, to crack down on the revolutionary forces, and on the opponent parties and the peace and neutralist forces now growing widely in South Viet Nam.

2. "Vietnamization" is an immediate and at the same time a long-term scheme of Nixon and his agents.

Though sustaining bitter failures, the US aggressors still do not renounce their basic scheme of grabbing our country. For that reason, on the path of unavoidable defeat, they are counter-attacking us fiercely while trying to create a basis for lasting opposition to us.

To prepare for both their immediate and long-term scheme, the US — puppets are frenziedly organizing, besides military forces, pollical forces for continued opposition to the revolution in the future.

In the areas still under their control, they are building up bases, training counter-revolutionary agents, organizing forces for intelligence and espionage to infiltrate the revolutionary ranks and sabotage our revolutionary power.

In the towns, under their control, the US aggressors are trying to control more strictly political organizations and getting ready at present and in the future to cope with any eventuality...

In the economic sphere, the wicked character of the "Vietnamization" plan is more manifest in the enemy's long-term policies against our people. Apart from exploitation, tax increase, inflation, plunder, so as to increase on-the-spot supplies for the war and fill the budget gaps and the pockets of the puppet military and administrative bosses, the US aggressors also want to sabotage our economy and cut the supplies to the revolution.

3. The wicked character of the "Vietnamization" program, is also proven by the US intention to cope simultaneously with both the South Viet Nam revolution and the American people's struggle and the world-wide movement against the US aggressive war.

With their present troop withdrawal manœuvres, the Nixon clique hope to reduce American casualties and US war expenditures thereby dragging on the aggressive war in South Viet Nam while lessening the contradictions among the American people, and improving the political situation in the United States.

By so doing, Nixon also hope to avoid a political disaster like the one that smashed Lyndon Johnson's career and the ill fame of the "first defeated president of the United States». He hopes to cling to the presidential chair for many more years and maintain the Republican Party Administration which is facing strong condemnation for its issueless war of aggression in Viet Nam.

With regard to the world's peoples, the US aggressors hope to cover up their true features. Success in "Vietnamization" might eventually save part of their power, thereby saving part of their global strategy now on the way to fiasco.

It is because they have pinned high hopes on "Vietnamization" that the Nixon clique have become more obdurate, brutal and wicked in their efforts to carry out their global strategy scheme in their present stalemate:

1. The wicked and brutal character of the "Vietnamization" plan shows the reactionary and stubborn features of the US - puppets on the one hand, and their weakness and losing posture on the other. Human history has so far proved that any regime that use violence against the people is a reactionary and weak regime. The weaker the rulers are, the greater their cruelty. And when they can no longer maintain their rule they become more sanguinary and commit more crimes before biting the dust. Hitler, the Japanese fascists, Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu, and others have been inglorious examples.

2. When setting conditions for the withdrawal of US troops, the Nixon Administration reveals its passiveness and defeat.

According to Nixon, the US troop withdrawal depends on three conditions:

a — The level of activity of our armed forces and people on the battlefront has been reduced, i.e., they no longer have the strength to launch big attacks, and the US-puppets can consolidate their forces.

b — The puppet troops must share a bigger role in the fighting, they must grow many times stronger to replace the US forces on the battlefield.

c — The Paris Conference proceeds according to their will.

It is clear that these three conditions do not depend on the US...

3. "Vietnamization" of the war means using Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese, but with extensive participation of US troops. This new scheme will not avoid defeat.

a) The US wants to build a strong puppet army to ensure the future of its war of aggression. But the puppet army has been described by world public opinion as inefficient and corrupt.

The puppet army has never won any military victory.

The US and puppets put their hope in forcible conscription, and in a better equipment of puppet army but in face of the struggle against draft and, herding of people into concentration camps, it is not easy for them to find much cannon fodder.

US military sources have admitted that the average monthly casualty rate (though far below reality) for the puppet army is 30,000 and the number of puppet army deserters approximates a division. These figures will increase in a situation more and more unfavourable to the puppet army.

If the US and puppets wantonly step up the draft how can they raise the combat skill of this heterogeneous army, and instil in it an fighting spirit which the GIs themselves have lost during the troop withdrawal?

Supposing that the US aggressors have plenty of arms and munitions to equip the puppet troops, will the latter be able to play the role of the American troops on the battlefield?

If a large quantity of equipment can retrieve failure in the war, why did the US troops sustain one defeat after another when they had every kind of weapon at their disposal?

b) The enemy's "pacification" program is a vicious scheme but its prospects are gloomy. Our people and their armed forces have for many years now successfully countered "pacification" operations and drawn much experience from their struggle.

c) The Saigon administration is known to everybody as a group of traitors, cruel thugs, political carecrists disguised as religious dignitaries and legionaries of the French army in the past and the US forces at present. This administration, spurned by the entire people, only survives thanks to bayonets and terror. However, the American troops will have to quit, the puppet army will be defeated, the "pacification" program will be smashed, and this fragile administration will be like a bell hung by a hair... This administration whose bosses are always ready to flee away and which is considered by broad public opinion as unable to survive more than two hours after US troops are withdrawn, cannot avoid total collapse.

d) The economy under the Saigon puppet regime is a tree with a big foliage but with rotten roots. Likewise, the US economy is not so sound and inexhaustible that Nixon and Co may upset the world with its flow of dollars. Instead, it is being weakened by inflation, "gold flights", disproportion between the national income on the one hand and the expenditures caused by the Viet Nam war. In such a condition, how can the subservient economy of the Saigon regime stand firm?.

CUU LONG

(to be continued)

They deservingly are in the van

SINCE March this year, South Viet Nam student and pupil growing protest has been causing proportionate alarm to the Saigon regime.

It was initiated by the class-boycott on March 10, 1970 of 1,600 pupils at the Cao Thang technical middle school in Saigon. In only a short period of time, the actions of pupils and students with their Saigon mates in the van have been warmly sympathized with by tens of thousands of school-mates in other cities and towns throughout South Viet Nam. Class-boycotts, market-strikes and demonstrations were held for the release of all the pupils and students illegally detained by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate, including Huynh Tan Mam, acting Chairman of the Saigon Students' General Association and abolition of the military tribunal in the 3rd Tactical Area unconstitutionally instituted under the Ngo Dinh Diem regime.

Since April this years, more than 1,000,000 attendances have been recorded in class-boycotts and demonstrations by pupils and students from the five Saigon, Van Hanh, Hue, Can Tho and Dalat universities and most of South Viet Nam secondary and elementary schools.

The number of attendances has been growing ever larger and more militant and co-ordination and united actions between various groups have been increasing.

Typical of this were the class-boycotts by 35,000 students in two faculties and by tens of thousands of pupils from 18 secondary schools in Saigon-Cholon twin-cities, by 20,000 pupils and students in Da Nang city and by 10,000 pupils and students in Hue city, along with the demonstrations of 40,000 pupils and students in all cities, towns and townships in West Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper).

Bayonets, guns, truncheons and big police forces of the US-puppets have been unable to stamp out the movement which has gained in momentum and assumed lively and diversified forms. Besides class-boycotts of unprecedented proportions, continual teach-ins, meetings, demonstrations, petitions and statements against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, the pupils and students have also resorted to other ever more stirring and fiercer methods of struggle such as motor-cycle and motorized push-bike parades participated in by thousands of demonstrators through barricades, barbed wire entanglements and police cordons and in front of various puppet public organs such as the "National Assembly", the "Education Ministry", the "Justice Ministry"... The marchers also hurled rotten tomatoes and eggs and garbage at the US Embassy. A large number of Saigon students on motor-bicycles rode through Saigon main thoroughfares, released hundreds of balloons carrying leaflets and slogans reading: "Governor General Bunker go home !", "Restore Peace !". At the funeral procession for Phan Khac Suu, a former puppet head of state "Republic of Viet Nam", Saigon students denounced Nguyen Van Thieu as a fascist dictator when he turned up to join the crowd and change the procession into an anti-Thieu march. The South Viet Nam pupils and students' drive is not only directed against repression, for the release of their illegally held mates and for autonomy for the University but also against the US-puppet regime, as such.

It has enlisted the sympathy and support of the people of all strata including a number of deputies to the Saigon National Assembly, and the cooperation of the press and Buddhist circles...

Under its impact, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique had to set free a number of detained pupils and students including Huynh Tan Mam and put off the trial of other arrested students at the military court. But this was only a reluctant concession to placate the protestors and not an effort to meet their legitimate claims.

Continuing South Viet Nam tradition and multifarious experience of undaunted struggle, and with the wholehearted backing of South Vietnamese from all walks of life, the South Viet Nam pupils and students will certainly live up to their role as anti-US-puppet storm troops in occupied areas.

NGUYEN VAN

Students, Buddhists and other protestors in Saigon observe a minute of silence for Vietnamese residents massacred by the Lon Nol—Sirik Matak clique

INTENSIFIED BUDDHISTS PROTEST

SOUTH Viet Nam Buddhists protest against persecution of Buddhist believers and discrimination among religions by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique has been going on for many months now.

It has been spear-headed against the US aggressors and their stooges and has taken on diversified and vigorous forms.

On May 8, 9, 10, 11, 1970, thousands of people took part in demonstrations against the Thieu administration's supplying Thich Tam Chau with US M.16 rifles for the "Viet Nam Quoc Tu" May 5, 1970 massacre. Especially on May 19, in defiance of the puppet administration's threat and strict precautions, tear-gas, barbed wire entanglements and police cordons, 100,000 people in Da Nang city turned out into the streets. In that action, the Buddhist leaders rated the US-Thieu rule as more savage than Hitler's and Ngo Dinh Diem's and condemned the Thieu-Ky clique's assistance to the Lon Nol Sirik Matak gang in mass murders of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

On May 31, thousands of bonzes in Saigon, Hue and other cities in South Viet Nam began a 48-hour hunger strike for an end to the war. They exposed the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique's shielding of the Thich Tam Chau reactionaries disguised as Buddhists and the US-puppet creation of a serious social and economic tension in the occupied areas. This action which followed the fast of 500 monks at An Quang Pagoda was the first Buddhist nation-wide protest since their 1966 campaign for a civilian government.

Joining hands with their Saigon co-religionists on the same day hundreds of bonzes of the An Quang Sect in Hue also staged a hunger strike.

They declared that if this did not yield any results, they would organize a march and coordinate their efforts with the pupils, students and puppet war veterans against the Saigon tyrants.

Alarmed by the growing unrest, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique sent police to encircle the pagodas of the fasting bonzes, which only fanned the Buddhists' wrath. On April 6, 1970 a 24-year-old nun named Hoang Thi Gai burned herself to death in Phan Rang in protest. Her self-immolation initiated a new period of struggle of the Buddhist circle in general and of the An Quang Buddhist Sect in particular for the restoration of peace in South Viet Nam. On June 11, 1970 the 74-year old Thich Thien Lai also set fire to himself at Pho Quang Pagoda, on the outskirts of Saigon, leaving a letter condemning repression of Buddhists by the puppet rule and Nixon's prosecution of the aggressive war in South Viet Nam and urging an end to the war and restoration of peace.

On the morning of June 16, 1970, more than 25,000 high-ranking Buddhist monks, bonzes, nuns and believers in Saigon and its vicinities attended the funeral procession for Thich Thien Lai. The participants carried paper-cut doves, streamers and slogans reading: "Peace is the pressing demand of the Vietnamese people", "Die for peace, but not for war, and for foreigners (US)", "Withdrawal of foreign troops will immediately bring peace to Viet Nam", "Vietnamization means prolongation of war"...

The funeral procession for Thich Thien Lai was a show of force of the town people in South Viet Nam against the US aggressive war in Viet Nam.

With the sympathy and support of South Vietnamese of all social strata in town and cities and with the co-ordinated struggle of the pupils, students, press circles and puppet army disabled, the Buddhists' drive will certainly attain its lofty and legitimate objectives.

My native land

When I was a boy, and to school went
twice a day
I loved my native land through what
books had to say.
"Who says buffalo-boys lead a hard
life?"
Dreaming, I listened to the birds that
sang on high.
Often played truant,
Catching, near the pond, the butterfly,
And was caught by Mamma...

Hardly had the whip licked at me
Than already I wept: Hoo, hoo,hoo!...
The little girl next door
Looked at me, and chuckled. Oh, what a
bore!

Then the Revolution broke out,
And the Long War was brough about.
My native land was plagued by the
enemy.

Leaving Mother, I went away.
The little girl next door who would
believe it? –
Also joined a guerilla unit.
The day we met, she chuckled too.
Her eyes were round and black - lovely
and true!
But we were to fight, and no word was
said.

As my unit passed, I turned my head...
Though rain filled the sky,
Warm was my heart, I knew not why...

When peace was restored, I returned
again
To the old school, to the furrows,
the sugar cane.
Again we met;
Confused, you hid behind the door...

And you laughed, when I whispered:
"Are you married?"– "It's so hard to
say, brother."
Trembling, I took your hand so fine,
Anh you left it, left it burning there
in mine...

Today I [illegible].
How hard to [illegible]! Yet it's true...
They shot you, and [illegible] away.
Why? "You [illegible] they say.
Pain tears my heart [illegible] am I!
I once loved [illegible] land for its
butterflies,
for the day when I played truant
and was whipped by Mother.
I love it now, for on each clod of earth
there lies
Part of the flesh and blood of the girl
I'll love for ever.

GIANG NAM

In the liberated zone

They cling to their land

TUY HOA, a fertile lowland district lying along Highway No 1, was well known as the granary of Phu Yen province, Central Trung Bo.

Since American and South Korean troops occupied the area, they have established a string of garrisons and undertaken endless sweeps and searches. They pillaged rice and burnt dwellings and means of production as well. In this embattled land there is not a single plot that does not bear war scars. Deep bomb craters, demolished houses, defoliated orchards, everything testifies to the cruelty of the occupier. But their most atrocious means of warfare is the systematic killing of livestock, so that in Tuy Hoa, also reputed for cattle husbandry formerly, the peasants are short of draught power.

Confronted with such an enemy, they have no other alternative than to rise up in a life-and-death struggle. They cling to their hamlets, to their paddies that they turn into battlefields rendered lethal by spike pits, land-mines and booby-traps of all kinds.

Preparations were in full swing for the 1969 main-crop season, when a battalion of puppet and Pak Jung Hi soldiers, carried by armoured vehicles and covered by tanks, mounted a "mop-up" in Hoa Quang. At the entrance to the village, the C.O. truculently ordered his men to set fire to houses and farm implements, and to assemble the inhabitants whom he wanted to herd into a strategic hamlet. Local guerrillas had already warned their countrymen, and comrades in neighbouring villages long beforehand. Unwary, he advanced far into the ambush site. An ear splitting explosion put him to flight under the cross-fire of our fighters. Many assailants stepped on spike pits, mine and other traps. In no time there were twenty-five bodies sprawled on the ground. Pursuing the adversary fleeing helter skelter, the guerrillas knocked down several others. The sweep was broken.

At harvest time the enemy came back, this time with aircraft bombing and strafing paddies at random. On the ground ruffians and civil guards pillaged rice in one hamlet after another. The people organized themselves to resist. An old man, with a jungle knife in one hand told the looters, distinctly in the face: "This rice has been produced with our sweat and tears. If you take it, we shall starve and you will pay for it." His determination and his fellow-villagers' forced the raiders to withdraw. The incursion was repelled.

Ever since, the people of Tuy Hoa have been scoring more and more successes in countering terroristic and plundering operations, which have stimulated their fellow-countrymen penned up in strategic hamlets to stand up and dismantle them. One night, the inmates beat gongs and tocsins, kindled glowing fires that could be seen from miles away, and, with the help of guerrillas cut down wicked agents inside. They pulled down all the structures. Caught unawares the enemy was not in a position to react effectively. They returned to their respective native places that they soon turned into combat hamlets with underground trenches and traps of every kind. They have started a new life, growing their land while standing ready to defend it at any cost, resolved not to experience again the ignominy of disguised concentration camps.

Waiting!

Water-colour by LE LAM

LAOS:

Patriotic forces completely liberate Saravane town

ACCORDING to KPL, with the assistance of the local population and the co-ordinated uprising of a number of army units of the Vientiane administration, the regional armed forces and guerillas on the night of June 8–9 sprang a surprise attack on the enemy in Saravane town, (Lower Laos), and completely liberated it following three hours' fighting.

Right at the start, the Lao patriotic forces attacked the headquarters of the Saravane military subsector and the "BV-41" battalion HQs. The colonel commander and a deputy-commander of the Saravane sub-sector were killed. A major part of the "BV-41" battalion was wiped out, and many among the remnants gave themselves up.

The Lao patriots also ferreted out the remnants inside Saravane and its surrounding areas.

According to initial reports, more than 500 enemy troops were put out of action, 2 US warplanes shot down, and hundreds of firearms including many heavy guns, and a large quantity of war supplies captured.

The patrictic forces and people in Saravane province on June 16 attacked a battalion of the US-fortered army at Ban Khoc three kilometres east-northeast of the provincial capital.

They completely overran the position after one hour's fighting, wiping out many enemy troops, seizing a big quantity of weapons and military equipment, and putting the remnants to flight.

At the same time, the patriotic forces assaulted the enemy at Nong Bona, 12 kilometres southeast of Saravane town inflicting on him heavy losses. The enemy is being closely encircled, the agency said.

Announcing this fresh attack, Pathet Lao Radio said that "this is a due punishing blow dealt at the US imperialists and their stooges who are actively preparing to dispatch GIs, Saigon puppet troops and Thai mercenaries to the Saravane area, materializing the scheme to widen the US war in Lower Laos."

"Should the US and its quislings stubbornly refuse to give up their plot to intensify and broaden the war in Laos, they would receive more stunning blows everywhere they commit crimes against the Lao population," warned the Radio.

Pathet Lao artillery, architect of many of the Lao people's successes.

CAMBODIA:

Nearly 1,500 enemy troops put out of action in eleven days

THE National Liberation Army of Kampuchea in the first eleven days of this month killed or wounded nearly 1,500 enemy troops including 350 US and Saigon troops, according to the Information Office of the National United Front of Kampuchea.

In terms of units, they wiped out or decimated 6 battalions of the Lon Nol – Sirik Matak clique and 2 American companies. They destroyed 76 military vehicles, shot down 7 planes, damaged 2 war vessels and seized hundreds of firearms of various kinds.

In *Kompong Cham province*, on June 9, the CNLA wiped out one US infantry company and heavily trounced one American armour company, eight kilometres north of Memot town, killing or wounding nearly 160 GIs, destroying 35 military vehicles and capturing a large quantity of weapons and military equipment.

The same day, they put out of action 150 American troops 21km northeast of the same town.

On June 7, the CNLA killed or injured nearly 100 US soldiers and shot down 4 helicopters 8km northeast of Katum. At the same time, they attacked an American encampment nearby, wiped out 20 GIs, set aflame one ammo dump and destroyed one cannon. Also on June 7, the Cambodian regional forces and guerillas wrecked 12 military vehicles, killing or wounding many American troops on board in an ambush on Highway 22. They also damaged two war vessels of the US and puppets, 3 km south of Tonlebet township.

In *Kandal province*, on the night of June 4, the National Liberation Forces attacked a military training camp at Xet-bo, 23km south of Phnom Penh, killing or injuring nearly 100 enemy troops, and seized 100 firearms and 3 tons of ammunition.

On the night of June 6, the regional forces wiped out 30 adverse soldiers and captured a quantity of weapons in Thnot area, 18km northeast of Phnom Penh.

News in Brief

• On June 14 evening, representatives of the *British Viet Nam Solidarity Front*, the *Solidarity with Viet Nam Movement* and *Group* 68 of American residents in Great Britain met in London to commemorate the first founding anniversary of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

Speaking at the gathering, Mr Abu Machandra of the EPFSVN welcomed the successes of the South Vietnamese people since the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN. The world peoples, he said, will never forget Ho Chi Minh, who chartered the route to victory for the Vietnamese revolution. Marching in the van of the national-liberation movement, the South Vietnamese people and their sound revolutionary line are blazing the trail for revolution in the whole of Indochina.

• Also on June 4, democratic organizations in Helsinki and six other towns of Finland held marches and meetings to support the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples' resistance to US aggression. Young people (among them students), intellectuals, workers and a number of MPs paraded through the main thoroughfares of Helsinki carrying slogans: "Americans-assassins in Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos", "US quit Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia".

• According to dispatches from New Delhi, on June 15 Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's ruling party demanded that American troops pull out of Indochina. The only way to settle the Viet Nam conflict, said Defence Minister Sarawan Singh, is the withdrawal of US troops.

• June 18, some 15,000 railway, chemical, telecommunication and other industrial workers assembled at Hibaya Park, Tokyo, to denounce US aggression in Indochina and voice their opposition to the "US Japanese security pact".

• A cable from Liberation Press Agency Prague correspondent said that on June 15, a ceremony was held in the CSR capital city where relief supplies donated by the Czechoslovak people to the people of South Viet Nam were handed to a South Vietnamese representative. The gift consisted of 3 million crowns worth of medicines and medical appliances contained in 96 cases.

"KILL CONG" BADGES

IN their predatory war in South Viet Nam, the American imperialists have committed countless crimes just like the Hitler, Mussolini fascists during the Second World War.

While carrying out their "pacification" program, the backbone of the "Vietnamization of the war", they do not stop at any method or any cruelty. Mass slaughters, rapes, beheading, ripping of bellies, tortures are daily occurrences throughout South Viet Nam.

All this savagery has been cultivated by rewards like prizes for sexual violence against pregnant women. A recent AP dispatch quoted this report from the Detroit Free Press June 10, 1970: "Specially designed 'Kill Cong' badges were awarded by US army battalion to soldiers who could prove they killed a Viet Cong last year, according to statements of returned servicemen.

"It was like we were on hunting trip something', sgt. Frank Shepard who served as battalion clerk said. 'The badges were made for the battalion by South Vietnamese laundry workers and usually were presented at company formation.

The badges had an Olive-green background with the words 'Sat Cong', lettered on it in blach.

'The order which created the badges was signed June 28, 1969 by Capt. Philip F. Kearns, Infantry adjutant for the battalion. The badge was awarded by the 5th battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division while it was stationed at Rach Kien, South Viet Nam, during the Summer of 1969'...

He added: 'One way to prove your claim to badge was to bring back an enemy ear... They kept a string of ears at headquarters, which I saw. The ears were rotting and they smelled pretty bad.'

When Michigan's Democrat Senator Philip Hart inquired about the badges of the Defense Department, the latter replied in a letter dated December 18, 1969: 'Information received from headquarters and Field Force, VietNam, indicates that the 'Sat Cong' badge was a program recently instituted in the 5th battalion, 60th Infantry.'

The Detroit Free Press added: "In addition to badges, Magee said: 'Battalion members who could prove they killed a Viet Cong were rewarded with rest and recreation leaves to Vung Tau, a resort. I possessed about 100 badges. I think most of them were the results of night ambushes'."

What is the appeal of such badges? Why do they vie with one another in laying night ambushes to cut ears and get prizes? Robert M. Morris and another battalion veteran who now works in Reno, Nevada, ... said: "The badge were wrong. You shouldn't get a badge for killing somebody. But it's part of the war, that's all. Nobody knows what its like over there. There is no way to explain it.'

It is self-explanatory. With the lure of the "Kill Cong" badges which earn the recipients R and R furloughs from tough and destructive battles, the US aggressors encourage the GIs to kill as many people as they can, which will result in the brutalization and dehumanization of young Americans.

On the occasion of the "Month of Solidarity with the Korean People against US aggression"

For ever stand by the Korean people against US aggression

THE crime of aggression committed twenty years ago by the American imperialists and their lackeys in fraternal Korea will never be forgotten by mankind.

On June 25, 1950, the American imperialists and their South Korean hirelings attacked North Korea by surprise, then making use of the UNO banner, they dragged 15 countries into a full-scale aggression. With over two million modernly equipped troops and most lethal war engines, they hoped to easily subjugate North Korea and use it as a springboard to assail the socialist camp. However, upholding their tradition of magnificent revolutionary struggle and closing their ranks around the Korean Workers' Party headed by their great leader Kim Il Sung, the 40 million Koreans foiled all the invaders' schemes, wiped out over one million of them, including 400,000 Americans and compelled them to sign the Panmunjon cease-fire agreement on June 27, 1953. A bitter humiliation for US "military prestige", it rejoiced the world peoples, and made a great contribution to peace and security on earth.

But, stubborn and bellicose, the Americain imperialists have not learned the lesson and kept on turning South Korea into a US colony and military base for an eventual aggression against the Korean People's Democratic Republic. Flouting the armistice accord, they have massively sent into South Korea modern arms and war means, including atomic weapons, enlarged military bases, airports, harbours, strategic roads, and stepped up their training and equipping of the puppet troops.

Parallel with the military build-up for another war in South Korea, the American imperialists have been multiplying armed provocations against the Korean People's Democratic Republic.

To implement the so-called "Nixon doctrine on Asia", the American imperialists are striving to strengthen the collusion between their lackeys and make no bones of their design to use the Japanese militarists as shock troops in an eventual aggressive war in this area. With US help, the latter are laying their devilish hands on South Korea and carry-out a blatant hostile policy against the Korean People's Democratic Republic. Under the terms of the Japan-South Korea treaty, the American imperialists forced the Pak Jung Hi clique to send over 50,000 troops to South Viet Nam as cannon fodder in their aggresive war there.

These war plots and provocations of the American imperialists and their lackeys have created a tension in Korea and the Far East.

But on the other hand, the American imperialists are bogged down in South Viet Nam and Indochina, and attacked from all sides by the world peoples hostile to imperialism and colonialism old and new. The Korean People's Democratic Republic has become much sturdier after decades of socialist construction. If the US imperialists recklessly start a new war in Korea, they will suffer a more shameful defeat. The incidents of the "Pueblo" intelligence vessel and the "EC 121" spy plane together with the sinking by the Korean People's Army of the spy ship in the Haeju maritime area on June 5, 1970 have served stern warnings on the American imperialists and their lackeys in South Korea where popular anti-US feeling runs high despite repression by the reactionary authorities. Of late, the actions staged by tens of thousands of dockers in 12 South Korean harbours against mass dismissal, by workers of the Chonjun cigarette factory (Twanlabak), and of the Song dong drug factory (Seoul) for collective bargaining, and particularly the movement of tens of thousands of peasants against land seizure for military installations, against food grabbing in Kunsanmam, Kunsanbak and Chunchonbak, the refusal of 240,000 youths to undergo training as prospective regional reserve forces and of 48,000 others against military conscription have been outbursts of popular anger at the domination of the Americans and Pak Jung Hi clique.

Many losses have been inflicted on them by the guerillas. The two South Korean pilots' crossing over to the Korean People's Democratic Republic with their planes was a denunciation of the US-Pak Jung Hi corrupt fascist dictatorship in South Korea.

The splendid achievements of the people in South and North Korea in their struggle for their fundamental national rights, against the US imperialists aggressors and their lackeys are a great and active contribution to the resistance against US aggression for national salvation of the South Vietnamese people, and to the world peoples' movement against imperialism and colonialism old and new.

The fraternal Korean people have consistently extended strong and warm support to the South Vietnamese. With prompt declarations of support, meetings, demonstrations, money collections, production drives for Viet Nam..., the Korean government and people have expressed their affectionate feelings and militant solidarity with the South Vietnamese people.

As their country also is kept partitioned and partly occupied by the American imperialists, the South Vietnamese people highly value this great and inestimable support and assistance. They pledge for ever to stand by the fraternal Korean people in the struggle against the American imperialists and their lackeys. They fully support the position of the Korean government and people regarding the settlement of the Korean issue, resolutely demand that the American imperialist stop their provocations against the Korean People's Democratic Republic, put an end to repression against the South Korean patriots and people, withdraw all US troops from South Korea, cancel immediately the illegal "resolutions" passed by the UNO on the "Korean question", disband immediately the UNO "Committee for Reunification and Restoration of Korea", to let the Korean people settle their own affairs without foreign interference.

On the occasion of the "Month of Solidarity with the Korean People against US Aggression", the South Vietnamese people together with the fraternal Indochinese and Korean peoples undertake to step up their effort and fight harder to foil all the war schemes of the American imperialists and their lackeys in order to do their bits in the safeguard of peace in Indochina, Asia and the whole world.

They take a leaf from the US aggressors' book

WHILE Saigon mercenaries are fighting for the US in Cambodia, both the US masters and their servants boast of their role as "rescuers" of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique of traitors. Thieu Ky want to stay longer on the Cambodian territory whereas the American praise the "Viet Nam Republican Army" as "fully capable of replacing" US troops. Insofar as the US expeditionary forces are aggressors who freely indulge in killing and looting, nobody would doubt that Saigon troops are "fully capable of replacing" them. One way in this connection read this report by AP on June 16, 1970: "The whole Kompong Speu town suffered only little damage... in the commercial quarters and the market area in the centre of the town. Real losses resulted from looting... All shops in the business centre were sacked, most of them had their padlocks broken by soldiers' shootings. All valuable items from cameras, flash-lights to sewing-machines and new bicycles were taken away. People who returned to the town were ordered to stop and leave everything found in their pockets; they were robbed of all jewels, watches...". The puppet troops are taking a leaf from US soldiery's book! As a Vietnamese proverb puts it, "like greens like worms"!

Priding himself on the performances of his mercenaries, puppet general Nguyen Cao Ky bragged during a recent visit to Cambodia that "hatred and suspicious had disappeared and the way had been paved for co-operation between the "Republic of Viet Nam" and Cambodia (AFP, June 9, 1970). AP reported that "in Cambodia efforts have been made to present South Vietnamese troops as allies and friends". Of course those efforts were exerted by the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak gang alone, since the same AP dispatch remarked that the Khmer people viewed the so-called allies and friends with quite different eyes. It quoted a Kompong Speu shop owner as saying that "Communist troops did him no harm and had no intention to enter his house or his shop, but South Vietnamese troops broke his padlock with their rifles, opened his safe and took away all his money and other valuable belongings". And this shop-owner queried, "How can those people become our friends?".

- Un Américain silencieux -

Gr. OGUANOV.

A silent American

Drawing of the Bulletin "For the Victory of the Vietnamese People"

This anti-war dissenter in Los Angeles is carrying cross bearing the name of her husband killed in the US aggressive war in Viet Nam.

Thailand troops US broken in Cambodia

ACCORDING to Western sources, the Bangkok ruling military junta has been feverishly preparing for the sending of Thailand troops to the rescue of the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique.

Thus, nothing is left in doubt. The militarists in power in Bangkok have exposed their true colours as a shock detachment of the US in the aggressive war against the Indochinese peoples. Their present hectic preparations are instrumental to the "Nixon doctrine" of pitting Asians against Asians — so as to maintain American neo-colonialism in Indochina.

As Washington's pliant agents, they have been for many years meekly serving US aggressive schemes against Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. They have made of Thailand a military base from which the US Air Force has been flying raids on Viet Nam and Laos. They have supplied mercenaries to fight in South Viet Nam, and 12 battalions in Laos, aside from Thailand units which co-ordinate their action with Vientiane puppet troops in inroads into the Lao liberated zone and "mop-ups" in the border areas of Udomsay, Savannakhet and other provinces.

With regard to Cambodia, the Thanom-Praphat clique have been for quite a time violating on American orders her frontier and, together with the Son Ngoc Thanh faction of traitors, committed crimes against her people in that area. They have brazenly occupied the sacred Preah Vihear Temple with the obvious aim of annexing this part of the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Acting as a tool of American aggression, the Bangkok rulers not only betray the Thai people, but they become also the sworn enemy of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples.

The dispatching of Thailand mercenaries is intended to reinforce Saigon troops in the task of replacing US forces, ward off the collapse of the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak faction and quell the patriotic effort of the Khmer people. This bares the US design to permanently occupy Cambodia, and spells out the critical posture of Washington's lackeys in that country. But how can the American imperialists dam up the rapidly rising tide of the Cambodian revolution with foreign mercenaries? The Liberation Armed Forces and people of Cambodia, who are placing the US and Saigon invading troops in an inextricable situation, will certainly prove more than a match for Thanom-Praphat's units. The Thai people, too, will not stand idly by and tolerate the Yankee imperialists to use their youth as food for powder, thus smearing their honour and fraying their long-standing bonds of friendship with the other Indochinese neighbours.

Following in the American aggressors' footsteps, the ruling clique of Thailand will only get engulfed with their masters by the maelstrom of the people's war in Indochina.

SOCIAL UNREST IN UNITED STATES OVER INDOCHINA

WITH the extension all over Indochina of the aggressive war in Viet Nam which has been tearing US social fabric for many years, Nixon has triggered a many-sided crisis.

Realities in the US over the past two months have thrown a strong light on the American people's opposition to Nixon. For different reasons and to different degrees, more and more students and black Americans, intellectuals and housewives, congressmen and GIs, politicians and businessmen, democrats and republicans, long-standing war dissenters and former war supporters, Americans at home and abroad have come out against Nixon's Indochina adventure. The *New York Times* (May, 5) reported that the Cambodian operation was regarded as the most serious crisis of the Nixon administration both internally and externally. By sending troops to Cambodia, said AFP, Nixon has touched off the most heated dispute since McCarthy launched the anti-communist witch-hunt twenty years ago. In Senator McGovern's words, the US is experiencing the sharpest crisis in her history since the 1861-1966 civil war.

Remarkably enough, in the said political turmoil, the anti-war tide goes hand in hand with the struggle against social oppression, and economic exploitation by monopoly capitalism. The Central Federal Conciliation Committee admitted that 391 cases of work stoppage were recorded on May 13 alone. In a number of branches of heavy industry and at the Transportation Department those strikes have proved disastrous for monopoly capitalism. In effect the 45-day strike of 15,000 building workers at Kansas city paralysed many construction yards there. The protracted one staged by lorry drivers also impeded the transportation of 1.5 million tons of steel from the producing plants and, consequently, the manufacture of spared parts badly needed in many factories. As a result, 500,000 workers had to discontinue production.

On the other hand, industrial production has been degrading since August last year, especially in the automobile industry and those branches related to cosmic exploration. In the first quarter of 1970, national output decreased by 3 per cent as compared with the same period in 1969. Inflation has become more serious than during the Korean war, and reached the most serious proportions since world War II. Prices keep skyrocketing. According to data furnished by the Labor Department on May 27, the index of whole sale prices in April was 116.8, i.e. an increase of 16.8% in comparison with the 1957-59 period; the prices of consumer goods went up 6.7 per cent. Statistics issued by the Labor Department on June 5 also show that the number of jobless in May ran as alarmingly high as 4.1 million or 5 per cent of the American labour force. M. McCracken, Chairman of Nixon's economic advisers' council, has admitted that prices and unemployment have shot up to an unexpected high. When US plants work at under 80 per cent of their capacity, unemployment is so serious and prices are constantly on the rise, the labouring people naturally have to tighten their belts.

The above situation has led to a very large budget deficit. In his attempt to make it good, the US President asked Congress on May 27 for permission to raise the amount of loans, a trick to find more money for the aggressive war.

In addition to the deteriorating economy, inflation and budget gap, the situation at the US Stock-Exchange is worsening (see our article: Economic and Financial slump, an inevitable sequel of "Vietnamization" in this issue).

The result of the latest Louis Harris Poll (published by *Time Magazine*, May 10) shows that over four-fifths of big businessmen in the US believe that inflation and unemployment will grow. 78 per cent of these 537 businessmen who manage 500 of the biggest American firms hold that Nixon's policy lies at the bottom of the slump at the Stock Exchange. Consequently, one half of the businessmen interviewed do not support what he has been doing in Indochina. A French Paper, Le *Journal de Paris*, has written: "Wall Street is in a turmoil. The crisis at the Stock-Exchange has turned into a crisis of confidence in the Nixon administration".

Though far below realities, the figures provided by the US administration amply substantiate a fact reported by the Japanese journal *Akahata*:

Nixon's policy to eliminate inflation and prevent recession (which he had brought to the fore before entering the White House) has gone bankrupt.

The "lasting prosperity" thought to have been achieved by US economy has lamentably come to a flop.

RICHARD Nixon's Indochina gamble has placed the US in a predicament due to grave internal division and economic and financial recession. If he and his close associates do not want to face this hard fact and just carry on their aggressive war, they will plunge the US into more desperate straits. They themselves will not escape punishment that history has always kept in store for all aggressors.

DAI LIEN

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